

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, October 12. 1706.

I Am about an odd Work in this and the last Review, I mean proving of Negatives, and enquiring, who are like to be no Gainers by the Union: I could reckon up abundance of People, and find Room for Satyr enough, more than I have; but I shall content my self with a few Instances, and such as are most significant.

And first of all, over and above the Persons mention'd in my last, *The Enemies of the Succession* will be no Gainers by the Union; and as this is a most considerable Article, I crave leave to be more particular in it.

The Enemies of the Protestant Succession to the *English* Throne have had two Prospects, which have seem'd to support their Hopes, and but two that I know of; the first was *French* Power, and that I think, is in a fair Way to deceive them; the second

is the Division of *Scotland* from *England* in Point of the Sovereignty, and that will utterly vanish and be gone by this Union.

What an unhappy wretched Sort of People are those, we call *Jacobites*? Unhappy, in that their Hopes, Happiness and Wishes are all centred on the veriest Trifle, the most unexhal'd Vapour, the most unconceiv'd Whymie in Nature, a Confusion of Nations form'd in their own Imaginations, centred upon a meer nothing, an uncondens'd Thought, an unrarified waterish Fancy, without any Manner of real Foundation or sufficient Parts to form a Probability.

As if because the *Scots* refuse the declaring their Successor, unless a Treaty be first had with *England* upon other Matters, in which they think themselves under some Disadvantages; that therefore this Hesitation

tion must have a Retrospect upon the abdicated *Popish* Race of the late King *James*. Preposterous Scandal ! nothing but a *Jacobite*, an *English Jacobite*, which is the most blind of any, could harbour a thing so inconsistent.

Let such a Man but go into *Scotland*, and enquire, what Remembrance the People there justly entertain of the Cruelties and Barbarities of some of that Family upon the poor Subjects of that Kingdom ? Let them enquire of the Families and Posterity of 18000 *Scots*, who have dy'd by the Hand of the Hangman, or the Soldiery, in Defiance of the Laws, and in Destruction of the Liberties of that Kingdom, and then let them ask, if they think the *Scots* mad ?

No, no, Gentlemen, you that think the Act of Security in *Scotland* was contriv'd for, or is a Step towards the recalling the Race of King *James* ; 'tis a plain sign you do not know the *Scots* ; 'tis the firmest Bar against his Return that any thing in the World, *this Union excepted*, could ever be.

That Gentleman therefore, who in his vehement arguing for calling over the Heirs of the House of *Hannover* hither, brings the Act of Security in *Scotland* upon the Stage, as one of the Dangers of the Succession, which made that Invitation necessary, forgot to examine, whether that Act was not just the contrary ; an eternal Bar against the Return of the Family of *Perkin*, and a Declaration that the *Scots* Eyes are open, and that they will be well satisfied of the Security of their Religion and Liberty, Commerce and Prosperity, before they declare any body.

As to Religion and Liberty, no Man can suppose so meanly of the *Scots*, as to imagine, they could seek the Safety of those two in a Frenchified Papist——

'Tis a long time ago, since the last *Scotch Fool* dy'd ; nor have they any *Bedlam* in *Scotland*, that I know of ; 'tis therefore too coarse a Suggestion upon the *Scots*, as a Nation, that they should be so lost in their common Understanding ; nor has there been Shadow enough in it, for any thing but an *English Jacobite* to grasp at, who being in his Politick Capacity just drowning, has a long time been snatching at Clouds,

grasping Vapour, and taking hold of mere Twigs, to save his Cause, and among them this seems to me to be one of the weakest.

Are the *Scots* looking about them ? Do they see a Juncture before them to secure their Liberty, advantage their Negoce, to re-assume their Independency, and form new Establishments for themselves in the Matter of the Succession ? Can any but mad Men, any but Men bereav'd of their Political Understanding, guess from thence, that they will re-establish Tyranny, and restore the Line of all the World fam'd for Blood, and that has ravag'd the best Families of the Kingdom.

In their Religious Capacity, what Contradictions must these People suggest of the *Scots* ? Have they establish'd Presbytery to bring in *Romish* Tyranny ? Have they depos'd Prelacy to bring in Popery ? This is a most contradicting and ridiculous Inconsistency, and therefore I would advise Mr. *G—don*, when he undertakes to shew the Danger of the Succession, that he would draw it from greater Probabilities, than that of the *Scots* being for King *James VIII.* as they call him ; that the Act of Security in *Scotland* was contriv'd to lay them open to Tyranny, and that the *Scots* are to return to *Popish* Bondage, Non-Resistance, and absolute Obedience.

Thus unhappy are the People call'd *Jacobites*, to build their Mushroom Hopes upon the empty Fancies, and incongruous Suggestions of things in their Nature directly opposite to the End they propose, and which cannot without manifest Absurdity produce what they expect.

And a wretched Generation they are too, and to me the Wonder, as well as the Scandal of *England*, that their Hopes depend upon the Miseries and Mischiefs of their native Country——That their Cause cannot be retriev'd, their Expectations be answer'd, or what they act for brought to pass, without involving both these Nations in Blood and Destruction, in Confusions and inextricable Difficulties ; and this makes them rejoyce when the *French* conquer, when the *Scots* differ, when the Parties in *England* quarrel, and when any thing calamitous befalls the Nation, as to Peace, either abroad,

abroad, or at home; Union, either with *Scotland*, or with one another, 'tis their *Assession*, 'tis their Scare-crow, the Prospect of it gives them the *Hypo*, they are chagrin at our Joys, repine at our Successes, and with dejected Thoughts they reflect on the Prospect of a Union.

I shall say more to this, when I come to examine, who are the Enemies of the Union, and from what Principle they oppose it; when perhaps some People may meet with their Characters in Miniature, which do not expect it, and too plain for them to bear.

I need say no more to prove, that the Enemies of the Protestant Succession, and the Settlement of the Crown on the House of *Hannover*, will be no Gainers by this Union; all their conceiv'd Hopes will meet with Abortions, their forward Embryos of

War and Feuds in the North be still-born, their Cabals and secret Managings be overlaid in their Infancy, and the thing it self be as entirely suppress'd in the very Nature of it, as the Trade of Clipping was by the new Coinage and calling in all the old Money.

This Advantage therefore will immediately accrue by the Union, that the great Question about the Succession is answer'd at once; the Son of King *James*, if so he shall be call'd, is effectually fore-clos'd, and the Voice of the whole Kingdom of *Scotland* joins with us in this secluding and universal Negative, *We will not have this Man to reign over us.*

I wave enlarging on this, till I come to shew the real Benefits of the Union to both Nations, as the Affirmative to this Negative.

MISCELLANEA.

When I have been talking of Victory abroad, it has often occur'd to my Thoughts; whether we ought not to build an Alms-House for decay'd *Jacobites*; and really I am of Opinion, it would be a very charitable Foundation, and I would freely contribute to the Work.

The only Condition of Admittance should be an Oath, that either 'tis in meer Conscience of their Oath taken, and believing, *tho' blindly*, that they are not absolv'd from it by the Abdication; or secondly, that in meer Gratitude for personal Favours receiv'd from King *James*, they cannot serve against him.

These, if their Master was the Great *Turk*, or King *Belzezebub*, I should pity their Ignorance, love their Honesty, and frankly assist to support them. We have a *Bedlam* for Lunatics I have often mov'd to have Hospitals for Idiots, and I think these, as a Sort of State Madmen, ought to be taken Care of.

But for our *Furant Jacobites*, I can admit no Consideration or Provision for them, but such as may be had at *Bridewell*, *Newgate*,

or the *Gallows*. They are Enemies out of the Protection of the Law of Nations; Traytors, in the most abstracted Sense, and like Beasts of Prey, who have no Law given them, ought to be treated with nothing but Extremity.

These are Incendaries, Spies and Men of Destruction; they first swear to protect the Government, and immediately betray and confound it. These are the Wretches that merit the universal Contempt of every *Englishman*, and who ought to be expell'd the Nation, as Men fatal to its Prosperity; who neither wish for Peace at home, Union with Neighbours, Success in Trade, Victory abroad, or any thing else that promotes the general Welfare; and yet all this while have sworn to Queen *ANNE*, pray for Her at Church, and carry the Hypocritical Outside of Loyalty and Obedience. And why are you so angry at these People, said a Person, whose Discourse was the Occasion of this—— Truly, said I, not so much at the People, as at the Lenity, and if I may call it so, Negligence of our Parliaments and Government; who suffer themselves to be daily

daily insulted, and affronted with such People in the Bowels of a Nation, willing enough to unite, willing to entertain peaceable and charitable Notions; but who are poyson'd by the Subtily of these Wretches debauch'd in Principles, and made uneasy like themselves.

These are the Vermin of this Age, a *Non-jurant* is an honest Fellow to such a one, and deserves to be us'd civilly; but he that swears to the Queen, receives the Protection of the Laws, lives under the Shadow of our Peace, and yet by his continued Insinuations and Reflections, endeavours the disquieting the People; he alone is the fatal Man to the present Peace, and 'tis of him, I would give all honest Men Caution, in whatsoever Shape, Posture, Cloth, Commission or Character, he is to be found.

Let no Man think this invidious and revengeful, 'tis nothing Personal; and had I not trac'd these Men thro' their rapid Channels of Church Danger, Tackings, Occasional-Bills, &c. and now found them industriously working to render odious the Union of the two Kingdoms, and as far as in them lies, obstruct it, I had not made this Digression upon them; but I shall meet them again in my Way, and I doubt not, shall sufficiently expose them; and therefore for the present shall dismiss them, with recommending to the Reader a Text in the old Testament, which I have not Opportunity now to quote exactly, *Cursed be he that wishes them good Speed.*

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